

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 SIL-01 LAB-06 IGA-02 RSR-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2404

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4083

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, EAID, AR

SUBJ: TERMINATION OF AIFLD PROJECT

REF: BA 2038 STATE 105927

1. MISSION RECOMMENDATION TO ESTABLISH REGIONAL OFFICE IN ARGENTINA TO ASSURE US LABOR PRESENCE BEYOND 1973 CALLED FOR SMALLER STAFF THAN THAT PRESENTLY EMPLOYED BY AIFLD/ A. THEREFORE MISSION IS PROCEEDING WITH REDUCTION IN STAFF BY END OF JUNE AS STIPULATED IN PHASE- OUT PROGRAM. HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT' S PLAN TO DELAY DECISION ON REGIONAL PROGRAM CAUSES ME SERIOUS CONCERN.

2. LABOR DEVELOPMENTS SINCE MARCH ELECTIONS HAVE STRENGTHENED MY CONVICTION THAT US LABOR PRESENCE ON REGIONAL BASIS IS ESSENTIAL TO US INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES IN ARGENTINA. I DO NOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY OF CAMPORA GOVERNMENT PROTESTING US PRESENCE LABOR FIELD UNDER PRESSURE FROM PERONIST AND NON- PERONIST LEFT. TERMINATION OF CURRENT AIFLD PROGRAM AND ESTABLISHMENT OF LOW- KEY REGIONAL PROGRAM HOWEVER WOULD REDUCE CHANCE OF THIS OCCURING.

3. SINCE UNDER TERMS OF PHASE- OUT PROGRAM ALL AIFLD/ A ACTIVITIES WILL TERMINATE BY NOVEMBER 30, I URGE EARLY CONSIDERATION AND DECISION ON RECOMMENDATION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF AIFLD REGIONAL OFFICE. THIS RECOMMENDATION IS RESULT OF THOROUGH STUDY INCLUDING IN- DEPTH DISCUSSIONS WITH AFL- CIO AND INTERNATIONAL
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TRADE SECRETARIAT REPRESENTATIVES. I AM CONVINCED THERE IS
NO VIABLE VEHICLE OTHER THAN AIFLD FOR PROVIDING US LABOR PRESENCE
AND MAINTAINING CONSTRUCTIVE US RELATIONS WITH IMPORTANT PERONIST
LABOR SECTOR AND I HAPE FINAL DETERMINATION CAN
BE MADE TO ALLOW FOR CONTINUATION OF US LABOR PROGRAMS ON
REGIONAL BASIS ALONG LINES OF PRIOR MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS
TAKING NOVEMBER 30 DATE INTO ACCOUNT.
LODGE

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